

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Applicant thanks the examiner for the indication that claims 9-10 are allowed.

The examiner has also indicated that claims 3-8 and 12-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3, 4, 8, and 12 have been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claims 3-8 and 12-13 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Harringer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,681,208). Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form, and claim 1 has been canceled. For at least the following reasons, the examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Harringer does not disclose or teach that "said power transmission mechanism mechanically links said transport motor with said transport belt when said circuit board is transported, and unlinks said transport motor with said transport belt when said circuit board is not transported" as recited in claim 2.

Harringer discloses a motor 60 coupled to a pulley 61 by a belt 62 (col. 2, lines 49-54; Figs. 3-4). In Harringer, the motor drives the metal bands 48, 50, which are around the pulley 61, in a continuous circular path. Harringer does not teach that the motor is ever uncoupled from the pulley 61 or belt 62. Harringer also does not teach that the metal bands 48, 50 are ever unconnected from the pulley 61. Since the Harringer motor is always coupled to the pulley 61

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and the metal bands are always around the pulley 61, the Harringer motor is always linked to the metal bands. Thus, Harringer fails to disclose or teach that the motor is mechanically linked to the metal bands when a circuit board is transported, and unlinked from the metal bands when a circuit board is not being transported. Therefore, Harringer does not disclose or teach all of the elements of the claimed invention.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 34237.

Respectfully submitted,

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